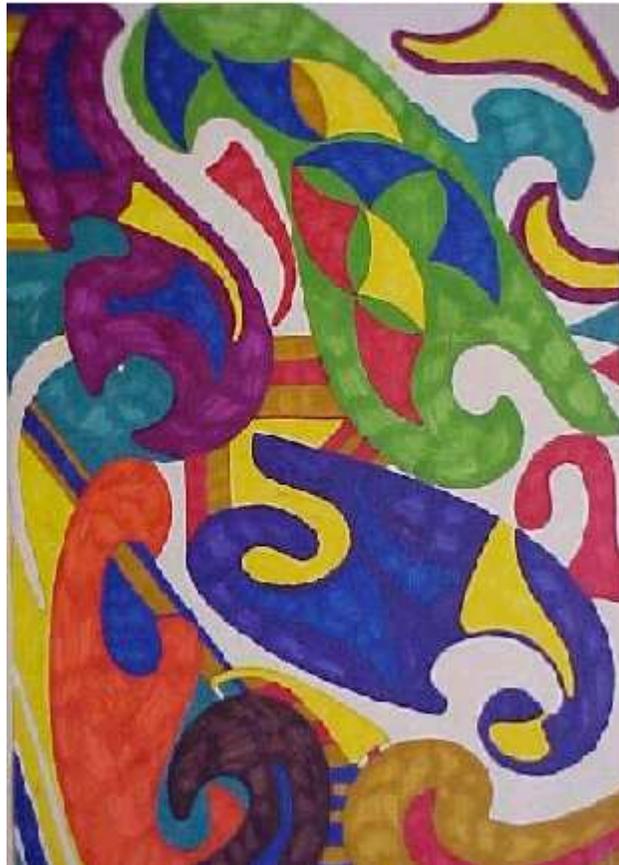


# **HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**



## **2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

**JUDGE THOMAS R. LIPPS      JUDGE KARLA J. GRADY**

## **ABOUT THE COVER**

The art teacher at Hillcrest Training School, Marla McMath, was contacted and asked to have her students submit artwork for this year's Annual Report. A selection committee was appointed to narrow the numerous submissions to ten entries. These entries were posted on the Court's intranet site and voted on by the Juvenile Court staff. The entry that received the most votes was placed on the front cover. The Juvenile Court Advisory Council graciously provided prizes for the ten entries that were chosen by the selection committee.

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## OVERVIEW

Hamilton County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues concerning children in Hamilton County. Additionally, the Juvenile Court administers programs and facilities providing for the custody, care and rehabilitation of youth within its jurisdiction.

The types of cases appearing before the Juvenile Court include:

- Delinquency cases in which a youth is charged with what would be a crime for an adult.
- Dependency cases in which it is alleged that a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or other person.
- Paternity/Child Support cases to determine parentage and collect support.
- Traffic cases in which a juvenile is charged with violating traffic law.
- Custody cases in which the parties disagree concerning with whom the child should live or visit.
- Adult cases in which there is an issue of contribution to a child's delinquency or failure to send a child to school.
- Various other cases which impact the best interests of children.

Two judges direct the work of the Court. In 2005, those judges were Administrative Judge Thomas R. Lipps and Judge Karla J. Grady. The judges, along with the Court Administrator, Mark H. Reed, oversee all Court operations, including:

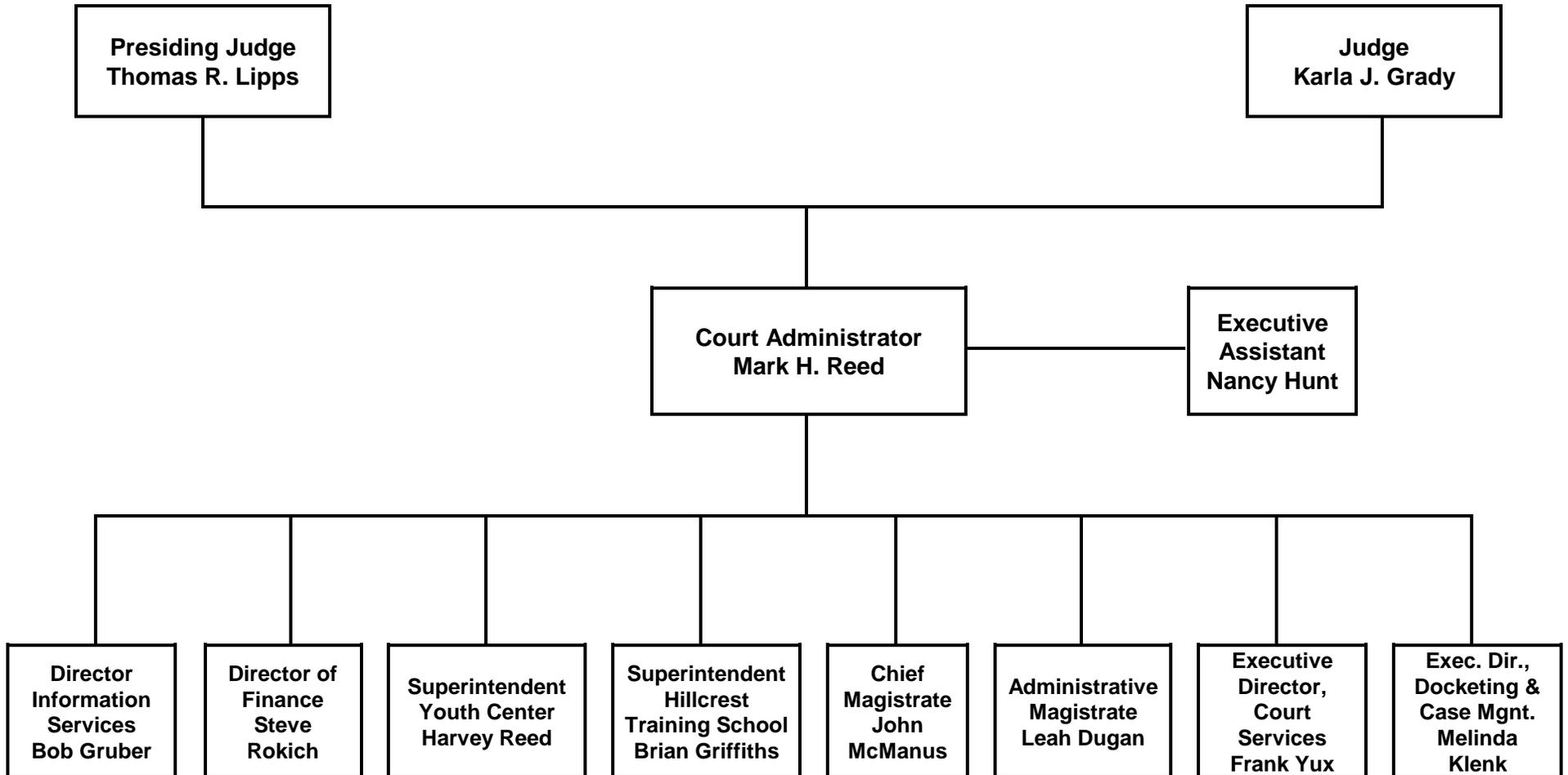
- Department of Docketing and Case Management, comprised of the Clerk's Office and Docketing Departments.
- Magistrates Department, comprised of 26 magistrates who hear a large volume of cases in various jurisdictional areas.
- Department of Court Services, comprised of the Probation Department, Intervention Unit, and Work Detail.
- The Youth Center, a 160-bed secure detention center, housing youth in secure custody pending court hearings.
- Hillcrest Training School, a 142-bed residential treatment center for youth court-ordered into the program for violating the law.
- Various administrative departments encompassing the office of court administrator, administrative magistrate, personnel, finance, information services, operations, training, and security.

The Court also contracts with various placement and program services offered by child care agencies, including inpatient secure diagnostic services, shelter care housing children, custodial drug treatment centers, youth counseling programs, etc. Further, the Juvenile Court along with other official entities, have formed the Family and Children First Council to consolidate efforts, increase efficiency and improve service to families and children.

The Juvenile Court is fortunate to enjoy the services of many volunteers who give their time, expertise and money for the enhancement of children. Volunteer programs include over 30 community unofficial hearing officers where members of the legal profession deal with minor infractions, diverting the case from official charges. Volunteer chaplains provide spiritual guidance to youth held in the custody of the Court. An Advisory Council composed of citizens in the community directs services and funds to enhance court programs which cannot be funded by tax revenue to provide needy children with clothes and positive life experiences.

The National Council of Juvenile Court and Family Court Judges designated the Hamilton County Juvenile Court as the nation's first model court. Hamilton County programs are praised by the national judicial and correctional associations and in published reports. Judges and officials from around the nation and across the world have traveled to Cincinnati to observe our Court.

# Hamilton County Juvenile Court





Judge Thomas R. Lipps  
Administrative Judge



Judge Karla J. Grady



Court Administrator  
Mark H. Reed

# JUVENILE JURISDICTION

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## TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2004..... 6,810

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2005..... 6,568

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Licensing of Motor Vehicle	115	120
Driver License Law	239	164
Financial Responsibility	0	1
Operation of Vehicle	4,061	3,736
Equipment and Loads	423	443
Motor Vehicle Crimes	108	103
Local Ordinances	1,864	2,001
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>6,568</b>

## UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED

UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED 2004 ..... 1,635

UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED 2005 ..... 1,773

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Runaway	710	831
Incorrigible	113	175
Incorrigible Out of County	26	24
Unruly Tobacco	33	21
Unruly	52	57
Curfew Violation	492	501
Unauth. Transaction of a Motor Vehicle	1	0
Habitual Truancy	197	162
Possess Spray Paint	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>1,773</b>

## DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED

<b>HOMICIDE</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>OBSCENITY</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Aggravated Murder	7	0	Dissem. Material Harmful to Juvenile	2	0
Attempt Aggravated Murder	1	2	Obscenity – Pandering	0	1
Murder	5	4	Illegal Use of Minor in Nudity Material	11	0
Attempt Murder	1	4	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
Complicity Attempt Murder	0	1			
Involuntary Manslaughter	1	0	<b>ARSON &amp; RELATED OFFENSES</b>		
Reckless Homicide	0	1	Aggravated Arson	60	10
Negligent Homicide	0	1	Attempt Aggravated Arson	2	1
Vehicular Manslaughter	1	0	Arson	20	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	Disrupt Public Service/Comm/Trans	5	7
			Vandalism	58	62
<b>ASSAULT</b>			Complicity Vandalism	0	12
Felonious Assault	182	159	Criminal Damage	630	546
Felon. Assault Peace Officer	9	3	Complicity Criminal Damage	1	30
Complicity Felonious Assault	1	8	Criminal Mischief	198	67
Attempt Felonious Assault	1	2	Vehicular Vandalism	13	3
Aggravated Assault	9	4	Making Terroristic Threat	0	1
Aggravated Vehicular Assault	1	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>758</b>
Assault	1,097	1,015			
Assault Teacher, Admin, Bus Driver	117	114	<b>ROBBERY</b>		
Assault Child Service / Agency Worker	0	7	Aggravated Robbery	183	231
Assault Corrections Officer	12	3	Complicity Aggravated Robbery	6	11
Assault Peace Officer	39	18	Robbery	203	173
Complicity Assault	5	3	Complicity Robbery	12	8
Attempt Assault	1	2	Attempt Robbery	3	1
Negligent Assault	1	4	Complicity Attempt Robbery	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>MENACING</b>			<b>BURGLARY</b>		
Aggravated Menacing	184	158	Aggravated Burglary	20	20
Complicity Aggravated Menacing	0	2	Complicity Aggravated Burglary	0	1
Menacing	227	197	Attempt Aggravated Burglary	1	0
Menacing Child Service/Agency Worker	0	1	Burglary	196	252
Menacing By Stalking	1	3	Complicity Burglary	12	10
Hazing	3	0	Attempt Burglary	10	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>361</b>	Break and Enter	164	162
			Complicity Break and Enter	4	3
<b>KIDNAPPING</b>			Attempt Break and Enter	7	3
Kidnapping	8	6	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>460</b>
Abduction	1	3			
Unlawful Restraint	8	2	<b>TRESPASS</b>		
Extortion	0	1	Criminal Trespass	403	386
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	Aggravated Trespass	4	12
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>398</b>
<b>SEXUAL OFFENSES</b>					
Rape	102	85	<b>SAFECRACKING</b>		
Complicity Rape	1	1	Safecracking	4	8
Attempt Rape	3	3	Complicity Safecracking	0	3
Sexual Battery	3	1	Tamper With Coin Machine	3	2
Gross Sexual Imposition	49	43	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>
Sexual Imposition	12	12			
Voyeurism	4	1	<b>THEFT</b>		
Public Indecency	14	8	Theft	1,279	1,281
Importuning – Under 13	0	1	Grand Theft	64	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>155</b>	Complicity Theft	33	32
			Complicity Grand Theft	9	12
<b>PROSTITUTION</b>			Attempt Grand Theft	20	16
Soliciting	9	8	Attempt Theft	12	14
Loiter to Engage in Prostitution	5	6	Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	78	68
Prostitution	1	0	Unauth. Use Vehicle -Felony	2	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	Comp Unauthorized Use Vehicle	1	4
			Auto Theft	56	52
			Unauthorized Use of Property	6	7
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,541</b>

	2004	2005		2004	2005
<b>PASSING BAD CHECKS</b>			<b>OFFENSE AGAINST JUSTICE (cont.)</b>		
Passing Bad Checks Felony	1	0	Attempt Fail to Comply with Police – Fel.	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	Fail to Report Crime	5	1
			Impersonate Officer	0	3
<b>MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS</b>			Escape	20	14
Misuse of Credit Cards	16	9	Attempt Escape	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	Convey Drug/Weapon into Detention	3	5
			Harassment by an Inmate	1	0
<b>FORGERY</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>1,027</b>
Forgery	37	35			
Complicity – Forgery	1	1	<b>ATTEMPT, COMPLICITY, CONSPIRACY</b>		
Criminal Simulation	3	10	Conspiracy	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	Attempt	14	12
			Attempt Felony	1	1
<b>FRAUD</b>			Complicity	27	19
Tamper with Records	1	0	Complicity Felony	3	0
Ill Display Law Enforce Emblem	0	1	Complicity Attempt	4	0
Take Identity of Another	3	3	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>			
			<b>WEAPONS CONTROL</b>		
<b>RECEIVING</b>			Carrying Concealed Weapon	113	144
Receive Stolen Property	360	310	Carry Concealed Weapon Felony	5	8
Receive Stolen Property - Over	44	62	Have Weapon Under Disability	18	24
Receive Stolen Property - Felony	3	0	Use Weapon while Intoxicated	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>372</b>	Weapon in School Safety Zone	80	52
			Possess Object Indist from Firearm	4	4
<b>GAMBLING</b>			Discharge Firearm Habitation/School	8	5
Public Gaming	6	15	Discharge Firearm on/near Prohib Prem.	0	3
Gambling	3	1	Discharge Firearm on/near Public Road	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	Dangerous Ordnance	1	3
			Firearm – Underage Purchase	0	1
<b>OFFENSES AGAINST PEACE</b>			Firearm Transport Loaded	3	2
Inciting to Violence	4	1	Improp. Handling Firearm in Motor Veh.	0	1
Aggravated Riot	5	0	Possess Criminal Tools	69	63
Riot	1	0	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>312</b>
Riot with Four or More	1	0			
Failure to Disperse	6	1	<b>DRUG OFFENSES</b>		
Telecommunication Harassment	38	35	Trafficking Drugs	17	11
Inducing Panic	51	54	Trafficking Drugs Near School	18	22
Making False Alarms	34	36	Attempt Drug Trafficking	0	2
Disorderly Conduct	1,367	1,510	Complicity Drug Trafficking	2	0
Disorderly Conduct - Intoxicated	24	18	Drug Trafficking Marijuana	30	26
Misconduct at Emergency	1	5	Drug Traff Marijuana Near School	12	19
Misconduct in Public Transit System	0	2	Drug Trafficking Cocaine	40	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>1,662</b>	Drug Trafficking Cocaine Near School	23	50
			Drug Trafficking Heroin	2	11
<b>OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY</b>			Drug Trafficking Heroin Near School	4	13
Endangering Children	7	8	Illegal Cultivation of Marijuana	1	2
Contrib. To Unruliness/Delinquency	0	1	Ill Assembly / Poss Chem to Manuf Drug	0	1
Interfere with Custody	0	1	Aggravated Possession of Drug	8	6
Domestic Violence	503	566	Possession of Drug	36	33
Domestic Violence Felony	76	102	Possession of Hashish	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>678</b>	Possession of Cocaine	149	173
			Possession of Heroin	13	25
<b>OFFENSE AGAINST JUSTICE</b>			Possession of Marijuana	590	651
Bribery – Public Official	1	0	Drug Abuse	10	27
Intimidation	4	9	Possess Drug Abuse Instrument	2	0
Intimidating Victim, Witness	9	5	Possess Drug Paraphernalia	133	170
Retaliation Against Crime Victim	1	1	Deception to Obtain Dangerous Drug	0	1
Falsification	170	159	Tampering With Drugs	1	1
Tampering with Evidence	21	23	Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	2
Obstructing Official Business	681	592	Possess Counterfeit Cont. Substance	20	18
Obstructing Justice	10	9	Traff Counterfeit Controlled Substance	1	2
Resisting Arrest	201	165			
Flee and Elude Police Officer	17	14			
Fail to Comply with Police	8	16			
Fail to Comply with Police - Felony	18	10			

<b>DRUG OFFENSES (cont.)</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Traff Count Cont Subs – School	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>1,307</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Illegal Dist of Cig or Tobacco Product	1	0
Ethnic Intimidation	3	0
Complicity Ethnic Intimidation	1	0
Contaminate Substance-Human Use	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FIREWORKS VIOLATIONS</b>		
Discharge Fireworks	1	1
Possess Fireworks	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NUISANCES</b>		
Littering	6	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LIQUOR CONTROL</b>		
Consume Possess Liquor in Veh	1	0
Purchase/Consume Possession	283	235
Underage Person	8	7
Misrepresent to Obtain Alcohol	1	0
Furnish Alcohol to a Minor	1	1
	9	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>246</b>

<b>DRIVER LICENSE LAW</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Fictitious License, ID Card	1	0
Display Improper Driver's License	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>HABITUAL / CHRONIC TRUANCY</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Chronic Truancy	626	585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>585</b>
<b>VIOLATIONS</b>		
Violation of Court Order	26	22
VCO Incurrigible	660	759
VCO Probation	1,037	601
VCO Placement	706	809
VCO Runaway	966	1,153
VCO Truancy	770	885
VCO Tobacco	26	17
VCO Work Detail	504	584
VCO Stay Center	360	367
VCO EMU	117	118
VCO Curfew Violation	561	616
Parole Violation	263	260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,996</b>	<b>6,776</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS/LOCAL CODES</b>		
Miscellaneous Codes	85	129
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>129</b>

### CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

The following report, mandated by section 2151.18 of the Revised Code, reflects the number of complaints filed with the court, that allege that a child is a delinquent child, in relation to which the court determines under division (D) of section 2151.27 of the Revised Code that the victim of the alleged delinquent act was sixty-five years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled at the time of the alleged commission of the act.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	PROPERTY	THEFT	VIOLENT
DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED	1	10	51
ADJUDICATIONS	1	6	25
ADJUDICATION & RESTITUTION	1	5	2
COMMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION	0	0	2
TRANSFERRED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION	0	0	9

## ADULT JURISDICTION

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### DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE

The Dependency Department is responsible for all complaints filed by public and private agencies alleging a child to be dependent, neglected, and/or abused. If a child is placed in the care of an agency, the dependency department must approve and monitor the implementation of the agency's plan for each child. The goals of the statutes that define the operation of the department are to protect children, to respect the rights of parents, and to obtain permanent homes for children in a timely fashion.

	2004	2005
NEW FILINGS	417 cases 712 children	444 cases 728 children
FILINGS DISMISSED	118 children	83 children
INITIAL DISPOSITIONS		
Direct Custody to Individual	45 children	111 children
Protective Supervision	141 children	68 children
Temporary Custody	360 children	331 children
Permanent Commitments	83 children	76 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	47 children	46 children

During 2005, in addition to the 76 children permanently committed as an initial disposition, 63 children were modified from temporary commitments to permanent commitments.

During 2005, in addition to the 46 children placed in planned permanent living arrangements as an initial disposition, 64 children were modified from a temporary commitment to planned permanent living arrangement.

## CHILDREN UNDER AGENCY CUSTODY OR SUPERVISION AT YEAR END

	2004	2005
Protective Supervision	149 children	106 children
Temporary Commitments	399 children	335 children
Permanent Commitments	343 children	365 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	365 children	351 children
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,256</b> children	<b>1,157</b> children

In addition to addressing child abuse, neglect and dependency cases, the Dependency Department hears motions to modify prior dependency orders, as well as child custody cases that have been transferred from the Court of Domestic Relations. New filings of these cases are set forth below:

	2004	2005
New motions to Modify Prior Dependency Dispositions	235 cases 344 children	257 cases 393 children
New Cases Transferred from the Court of Domestic Relations	7 cases 13 children	3 cases 5 children

## OTHER COMPLAINTS FILED

### ADULT MISDEMEANORS

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Failure to Send Child to School	1,637	1,514
Endangering Children	14	26
Tend to Cause Delinquency of a Minor	57	37
Contribute to Delinquency	12	20
Adult Probation Violation	8	6
Interference with Custody	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1,603</b>

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP	1,319	1,199
SUPPORT	2,115	2,404
CUSTODY	1,185	1,328
VISITATION	93	126
CHILD CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY	21	74
CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT	19	13
HABEAS CORPUS	0	1
PERMISSION TO MARRY	0	2
PARENTAL BYPASS	2	1

## SOME MOTIONS FILED

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
CONTEMPT	6,403	4,568
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	1,322	2,038
ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION ORDER	477	1,239
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS	4,333	4,222

## HEARINGS CONDUCTED

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
TOTAL HEARINGS CONDUCTED	151,447	164,283
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEARINGS PER FILING	3,29	3,58

## **PRE TRIAL & SPECIAL SERVICES**

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### **INTERVENTION UNIT**

The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Intervention Unit, a division of Court Services, serves families in crisis as the result of a child's rebellious or incorrigible behavior. Efforts are made to contact the family within 24-48 hours and schedule an appointment within 10 working days. If the parents or guardians are unwilling or unable to attend a session at the Intervention Unit, a family counselor will provide crisis intervention by telephone. It is the Intervention Unit's goal to provide direct treatment services to at least 10% of all families referred. During 2005, 13% of all cases referred received ongoing treatment services.

The duration of single crisis-intervention session is typically 2-3 hours. Ongoing treatment sessions generally last 1-2 hours. Telephone interventions are provided to clients who do not utilize in-person services due to work schedules, transportation problems, lack of child care, disinterest in counseling, or improvement in the child's behavior. Such cases are monitored for 30 days or longer should problems arise again. Families are encouraged to maintain contact with the assigned counselor during this period; many call for advice after the case is closed. There was an average of 5.5 contacts per case during 2005.

The First Time Runaway Program provides ongoing case management from the initial filing of the charge through final disposition of the case. Regular phone contact is maintained with the parents or guardians. The Intake Coordinator offers guidance and supportive counseling throughout the process, and has the option to refer cases to the Family Counselors for ongoing services.

1,320 cases were referred to the Intervention Unit during 2005. Chemical dependency, physical and sexual abuse, and mental illness remain constant and significant factors affecting family functioning. Trends suggest that increasing numbers of children referred have had prior exposure to mental health services or psychiatric hospitalization. Minority populations comprise 73% of youth referred; 54% of total referrals were female. Ages range from 7 to 17 years.

The Unit closed 1,326 cases during 2005 and provided service to 72% of the families referred. Services included: First Time Runaway case management, single session interventions, ongoing treatment services, and telephone interventions. 19% of cases referred either did not schedule services or the youth's warrant remained active for over 3 months. 9% of families that scheduled a session failed to attend and did not reschedule. In many instances, counselors scheduled several appointments with clients prior to case closure, encouraging the families to utilize services.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION/RECIDIVISM RATES

The Intervention Unit assesses the effectiveness of services based upon re-involvement with the Court. Recidivism is defined as any subsequent official Court contact for an unruly or delinquent offense. The results may be negatively skewed as counselors periodically encourage parents to pursue charges during treatment as a means of holding children accountable. To provide a meaningful appraisal of positive outcome, the population was drawn from closures dating from September 2000 through September 2005. A recidivism range of 3 months following case closure was used.

REFERRAL SOURCE	TOTAL CLOSED	NEW FILINGS	RECIDIVISM RATE
Dependency Court Magistrates	3	0	0%
Delinquency Court Magistrates	639	220	34%
First Time Runaway Program	2,240	724	32%
Clerk's Office Unofficial Referrals	2,854	574	20%
Probation Department	324	119	37%
Township Unofficial Dockets	18	4	22%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>27%</b>

TOTAL CASES DIVERTED FROM OFFICIAL JUVENILE COURT DOCKETS 3461  
 PERCENTAGE OF REFERRALS UTILIZING SOME FORM OF IU SERVICE 71%

## VOLUNTEER REFEREE PROGRAM

Two referee diversion programs exist in Hamilton County in an attempt to divert youth from official delinquent records.

Judge Benjamin S. Schwartz of Hamilton County Juvenile Court initiated the Volunteer Referee Program in 1958. It was the first program of its kind in the country. Attorneys were appointed by the Court as Volunteer Referees to hear unofficial cases of a minor nature within their own community. The program has continued with few modifications over the years, under Judges William J. Morrissey; Olive L. Holmes; David E. Grossmann; John P. O'Connor, Sylvia Sieve Hendon, Thomas R. Lipps, and Karla J. Grady.

Local businesses, schools, police and citizens refer cases. The advantage of the program is that cases are heard within the youth's own community. Generally the cases are heard in the evening, as it is more convenient for all parties to participate. There is high visibility of the child for enforcing house arrest, work details and other measures of discipline.

In 2005, there were 983 youth served by the Volunteer Referee Program. Of these, 131 youth were referred back to the police or school for further action. A total of 852 juveniles were handled unofficially and diverted from the official system.

## **CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON YOUTH PROGRAM**

In March of 1975 the City of Cincinnati's Citizen's Committee on Youth, Youth Services Bureau Program established a Court Liaison who serves as an unofficial hearing officer and referral agent to link unofficial unruly and minor misdemeanor youth to community services. Supervision of the program is handled jointly by the Citizen's Committee on Youth and the Executive Director of Docketing and Case Management Department, Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

During 2005, a total of 1,722 youth were served by the Unofficial Hearing Officer. A total of 28 juveniles were referred to the official docket. A total of 1,694 were diverted from the official system.

## **ATTENDANCE PROGRAM**

The Attendance Program is a collaborative effort between the Juvenile Court, Family Services of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Public Schools, and the St. Bernard School District. The primary goal is to reduce absences within the schools. The schools presently targeted include: Gamble Elementary, Schwab Elementary, Elmwood Place Elementary and St. Bernard Elementary. The Attendance Clerk and Visiting Teacher/Attendance Program Liaison identify students with poor attendance, and make efforts to address underlying issues effecting attendance without Court involvement. When these efforts fail to produce positive results, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) are cited to Court. Such hearings are held on a weekly basis in the above targeted schools. The hearing process, be it informal or official, focuses on the root problems contributing to absenteeism. The ultimate goals are to increase attendance, provide support to families, and interrupt the pattern that could lead to delinquency. The resources of the Court, school and the community are utilized to support families in their effort to correct the problem. The Case Manager, provided by Family Services, works closely with selected families by providing direct services and arranging for adjunctive programming. The Juvenile Court provides a Magistrate and Case Presenter for the hearings. All schools that participate in the collaboration have shown improved daily attendance and parent participation.

## **FAMILY TREATMENT DRUG COURT**

### **MISSION**

The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court is a collaborative effort to ensure timely permanence for children in custody of or under the supervision of the Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services. The goal is to provide the most efficient substance abuse treatment for parents, as safe return to a sober parent is the most natural form of permanency the system can provide. This program avoids ineffective treatment, ill-informed court decision-making and repetitive litigation that impedes permanency.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a condition for admission to the Family Treatment Drug Court the parent stipulates to the admissibility of all Family Treatment Drug Court findings and treatment records in any dependency proceeding and waives any further cross examination or confrontation of the reporters to the Family Treatment Drug Court. In exchange for this waiver of rights, the parent receives the benefits of close judicial monitoring of treatment, efficient exchange of information among the collaborative agencies, and individualized case planning all of which are designed to effect the safe return of the child. Conversely, unsuccessful completion of the program will be documented in the findings of fact and conclusions of law issued by the Hamilton County Family Treatment Court and will be considered by the Dependency System for all purposes in the future. This voluntary program, at its core, protects the due process rights of the participants yet offers the treatment benefits associated with adult drug courts. As a separate tract to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court's model court, which is already conducting close monitoring of the child's case plan, the Family Treatment Drug Court achieves the goal of timely permanency for children within a context that does not unduly compromise parental rights.

## STATISTICS

The Family Treatment Drug Court began in September of 2002, and is funded through a grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. In 2005, 21 parents entered the program. The Program served 32 parents during 2005. The Family Treatment Drug Court served 62 children in 2005. The program is comprised of three phases, and the anticipated time for completion of the program is one year. Sixty-three percent of the participants demonstrated substantial compliance with their treatment goals and court orders that included the maintenance of sobriety. The Family Treatment Drug Court discharged twenty-five participants in 2005. Ten participants successfully completed the program in 2005. Three participants received a neutral discharge status due to medical or personal issues unrelated to treatment or program compliance. The Family Treatment Drug Court discharged twelve participants in 2005 for non-compliance with treatment and the repeated failure to maintain sobriety.

## MEDIATION

Mediation offers an effective alternative to traditional court process by using a non-adversarial conflict resolution process in an environment of collaborative problem solving. It provides a forum to parties that promotes the safe, guided exchange of information following simple rules that are clearly explained from the outset. Parties are permitted to explore any avenue of possible resolution unfettered by external restraints.

## CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION

The Court contracts with attorneys and social workers trained in family mediation and dispute resolution to mediate petitions and motions for custody and visitation. The magistrates referred 170 cases for mediation in 2005, following a pretrial hearing.

The parties reached an agreement in 50% of the cases mediated. There were 43 cases where the parties either failed to appear or refused mediation services.

## CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

The goal of the Child Protection Mediation Program is to create an atmosphere that values children and families through a reliable process that empowers families and generates reasonable and creative solutions resulting in permanency for children. The types of cases served by the Child Protection Mediation Program include the following: custody or visitation petitions; adjudications of abuse, neglect and/or dependency; dispositional and post-dispositional requests of protective supervision, temporary custody, planned permanent living arrangement and permanent custody; and disputes related to case plan services.

The magistrates referred 45 cases involving 100 children to mediation in 2005. The parties attended the mediation session in 87% of the mediated cases. The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 62% of the cases mediated. Of those cases in which the parties reached an agreement, 71% resulted in a full agreement while 29% resulted in a partial agreement. The magistrates approved all of the agreements reached by the parties in mediation.

## **INDIVIDUALIZED DISPOSITION DOCKET**

### PROGRAM HISTORY

In 2004, Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. This program incorporates the following best practice principles from the *RESOURCE GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases* and the *JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases* published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: one magistrate/one family case assignment model; frontloading of services; family engagement in all stages of the proceedings; frequent substantive review hearings; the use of individualized dispositions that includes graduated sanctions/rewards; and community collaboration. The docket serves youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years who are adjudicated delinquent and diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. Although these youth are at risk for out of home placement, they have a designated caregiver who will work them in an intensive, home-based intervention.

## MISSION

The Individualized Disposition Docket is a community collaborative model of service delivery which utilizes an interdisciplinary and integrated team approach to treatment for youth with serious emotional disorders who are involved in Juvenile Court and require specialized, supported care in order to remain in the community. This model of service focuses on the provision of assertive, comprehensive psychiatric interventions designed to assist and empower the family in achieving individualized goals which are tailored to meet their needs, thus eliminating the risk of out of home placement or other court sanctioned dispositions.

## SERVICE MODEL

In 2005, the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse adopted principles from family preservation, multi-systemic therapy, wrap-around, and Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model) in the program design. This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; parenting education; mentoring; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency treatment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development.

## STATISTICS

In 2005, 11 youth entered the pilot for the Individualized Disposition Docket, and the program served a total of eighteen youth and their families in 2005. The Individualized Disposition Docket discharged 16 participants in 2005. Nine clients successfully completed the program in 2005, and seven clients received a neutral discharge due to issues unrelated to program compliance.

## **DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES**

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The Department of Court Services is charged with the implementation of a wide variety of Court orders and services directed at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. There are five separate departments within Court services: the Intervention Unit, Community Service / Work Detail, Probation and Service Grants. Services and programs in each of these areas work collaboratively and independently to provide services to youth and their families. Court Services uses general funds and specialized grants to fulfill its mission.

The Intervention Unit utilizes strategic brief therapy for at-risk families prior to formal introduction into the court system. It also accepts referrals from Judges, magistrates and probation.

The Community Service / Work Detail program performs a wide range of community services. Youth are referred to the program as a result of their delinquent or unruly behavior. The City of Cincinnati Adopt-a-Block Program, the Cincinnati Zoo, schools and a variety of parks benefit from this program. The Community Service / Work Detail Program also collaborates with Hillcrest Training School to provide an educational component to assist youth in obtaining their General Education Diploma.

The Probation Department provides predisposition investigation reports and post-disposition probation services. The Department also provides specialized case supervision to address four specific categories of offenders, sex offenders, female probationers, probationers with mental-health diagnosis and offenders require intense supervision. A Specialized Services team works closely with probation staff in locating services for youth with complex multi-problem maladaptive behavior not served through traditional community services.

The Services Grants department monitors and assists in the annual application of the RECLAIM Ohio Grant, which provides funding for both Court personnel and offender services in Court Services. In addition, this department assists in the research, development, application and monitoring of federal, state and private grants.

### **PROBATION**

#### **PROBATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

Probation and the work of the Department are defined under Section 2151 and 2152 of the Ohio Revised Code. It is the duty of all department officers to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. It is the responsibility of Probation Officers to use all suitable methods to aid youth on probation to bring about improvement in their conduct. During 2005, the Probation Department was staffed by: The Chief Probation Officer, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, 4 Probation Team Supervisors, 26 Probation Officers, 2 Probation Monitors, and 6 support staff. The Probation Department is accredited through the American Correctional Association. The department successfully achieved its first re-accreditation in May of 2003

The Probation Department utilizes a computerized version of its own statistical risk assessment and case classification model. The department utilizes the "What Works" principles to serve its clientele.

In 2005 the Probation Department received 1820 referrals and supervised 1019 cases under community control.

## **JUVENILE MAJOR OFFENDER PROGRAM**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Juvenile Major Offender Program (JMOP) began in September of 1998 as a collaborative effort between the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Department and various Police Agencies within Hamilton County to identify serious offenders on Probation and Aftercare and hold them accountable for behavior ordered by the Court. Accountability is enforced through after-hour home visits conducted by two-person teams of Police and Probation Officers riding in Police vehicles. These teams provide curfew checks and warrant service.

Due to funding cuts in the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, this program was suspended for most of 2005.

## **ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT (EMU)**

The Juvenile Court implemented an EMU Program in 2004. EMU is a community surveillance program managed by the Court's Probation Department to provide increased supervision of high-risk youth involved with the court. The program utilizes an electronic transmitter bracelet that is worn by the juvenile, and a field monitoring device that is connected to the existing power and phone lines in the juvenile's home. Using radio frequency technology, the receiver monitors the presence or absence of the juvenile within a specified range. Should the juvenile leave the specified range area, the curfew violation is reported to the department's monitoring center. During 2005 547 youth were placed on Electronic Monitoring. 472 youth successfully met their Electronic Monitoring requirements. Youth averaged 58.5 days on Electronic Monitoring.

## **SPECIALIZED CASELOADS**

In 2005 there were four specialized caseloads in the department, which are supervised by 10 officers. Individuals assigned to these caseloads receive intensive supervision and programming that is designed to meet the unique needs of the assigned probationers.

### **SEX OFFENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD**

Since 1989 the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Department has been utilizing specialized assessments of adjudicated sexual offenders. This was part of continuum of care treatment approach that followed the youth through legal, treatment and aftercare settings. The objectives for providing such an approach were: 1.) To determine the general

dangerousness of the behavior and threat to the community, current victim and potential future victims. 2.) To estimate the risk of re-offending. 3.) To evaluate the specific social, family, environmental and behavioral treatment strengths and needs of the adolescent offender. 4.) To determine specific recommendations regarding the ideal course of intervention and treatment along with secondary recommendations should the ideal course not be possible.

All youth adjudicated of a sexually oriented crime are assigned to the Sex Offender Specialist or to other specially trained probation officers. During 2005 the department worked with various professionals within the Court and community to further develop our practices in accordance with nationally accepted Best Practices.

#### GENDER SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING (GEMS)

Girls Empowered and Motivated for Success (GEMS) is designed to address the specific needs of adolescent females who are on probation. Seven (7) probation officers and a supervisor manage the GEMS caseload. The caseload is set up in an effort to decrease the risk for re-offending among females on probation. Members of the GEMS Team continued to undergo female specific training and networking throughout 2005.

#### INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROBATION

The Intensive Supervision Probation Unit is designed to provide increased structure, monitoring and supervision to selected youth who are 15 years of age or older, not amenable to traditional probation services and at risk of placement out of the home or facing the possibility of commitment to the Department of Youth Services. Youth are closely monitored for compliance with a rigidly constructed plan that includes four phases. Each phase allows for increased privileges and decreased contact. Youth begin the program with few privileges. Youth can increase privileges as they earn "credit days" for strict compliance with program expectations.

#### MENTAL HEALTH CASELOAD

This caseload was established as in conjunction to the Court establishing an Individualized Disposition Docket to address youth with Mental Health issues that lead to their continued involvement with delinquent behavior. This officer is part of a team of Court and community service providers who develop an individualized plan of care for each youth and family accepted into the program. The goal of this program is to provide a seamless system of care, which will help stabilize the youth's behavior, help improve the family's ability to manage the youth and eliminate delinquent behavior. After a period of intensive services, the youth and family are transitioned back to less intensive services within their community.

## DRUG TESTING

A component of Probation Supervision is drug testing. The department has trained its staff to collect urine on site in a specially designed test cup that will give instant results. In 2005, 372 tests were given resulting in 117 positive results. Other positives are reported by youth prior to the on site test being given.

## COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Youth who are involved with the Juvenile Court Probation Department often need additional services that involve community-based programs and/or out-of-home placement. Probation Officers are responsible for coordinating referrals and providing supervision for youth placed within these programs.

The following are facilities where youth are placed, or programs to which youth are referred for services, including a brief description of the program as well as the number of youth placed in/referred to that program in 2005.

### YOUTH INC.

Youth, Inc. is a local shelter care facility that accommodates up to 30 youth per day in three houses; one of which serves females. Youth are referred there from the Youth Center (Detention) when it is appropriate to use a less restrictive environment that can provide short term treatment and shelter care pending a longer-term placement or a return home. In 2005 the total number of male youth placed into this program was 566. Total number of female youth placed was 204.

### ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives is a 90-day residential drug and alcohol treatment program for youth aged 13-18. It is a division of the Talbert House. In 2005, the Juvenile Court contracted for 10 beds per month. Thirty-five youth were served in 2005 under this contract. Program youth are subsidized by funding sources above and beyond the Court's contracted amount. Youth who enter the program are admitting to a substance abuse problem and are willing to enter treatment. The program works with the families of the youth and provides step-down services in the form of intensive outpatient treatment and aftercare.

### HILLCREST TRAINING SCHOOL (INTERMEDIATE PLACEMENTS AND DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENTS)

Hillcrest Training School operates 142 correctional/treatment beds for adjudicated delinquent youth placed by the Court. The program primarily serves youth adjudicated of felony offenses and offers a wide range of services, which include an on grounds school, substance abuse and sex offender programming and psychological services to name a few. The Probation Department placed a total of 206 youth at Hillcrest during 2005. Hillcrest Training school also provides a short-term diagnostic assessment program offenders referred by the

probation department. In 2005, (MAP) Multi-Dimensional Assessment Program assessed 339 male and 228 female adjudicated offenders referred by the probation department.

## PASSAGES

Passages, a division of Talbert House, is a residential treatment program for felony and chronic misdemeanor female offenders. Using a gender-sensitive approach, the Passages program utilizes techniques to address issues of personal/family relationships, accountability, victimization and substance abuse. The program has two components; a 90-day program for chronic status and misdemeanor offenders, and a 180-day program for felony offenders. Passages also offers Intensive Outpatient and Aftercare services for residents. The Juvenile Court contracts for a minimum of 17 beds per month. In 2005, 32 girls were served in residential programming.

## COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

The Juvenile court periodically utilizes various residential placements in the local community to address the multiple needs of some of its client population. Usually these placements are shorter-term (four months or less) and satisfy a need that outpatient services cannot. This year, four different facilities including a local group home, independent living, and two residential facilities – were contracted with. A total of 9 youth were directly referred for placements at 3 facilities in 2005. Other court youth received placement services through various providers as part of involvement in the Hamilton Choices program (described below).

## LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY PRESERVATION

Lighthouse Youth Services provides a family outreach component for juveniles on probation who could benefit from a time-limited, structured in-home therapy approach. Workers are on call 24 hours a day during the program and work with the entire family system to help strengthen the family unit. Forty-five families benefited from these services in 2005.

## NORCEN SEX OFFENSE SPECIFIC TREATMENT

NORCEN Behavioral Health Systems, Inc. contracts with the Court to provide ongoing group, individual and family treatment for youth adjudicated on sexual offenses that are able to be maintained in the community but who need intensive treatment for their behavior. The 2 groups can accommodate approximately 7-8 youth at any given time, due to the lengthy nature of the treatment and the slow turnover that occurs. Additional youth are served individually. The Court had 39 youth serviced during 2005.

## PARENT AND TEEN HOPE (PATH) PROGRAM

PATH is a community-based program serving females on probation and their families. The program is designed on a family outreach model, where girls and their families are being provided intensive in-home therapy, case management and mentoring services over a 12-week period. The program targets girls involved in the juvenile justice system who have

primary problems with family relationships and school performance. During 2005 the program served 12 girls, 5 of which have successfully completed the program.

## COMMUNITY OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS

Occasionally the Court contracts on a case by case basis with various local providers for various outpatient treatment services for probation youth. Some examples of this would include individual sexual offender treatment, group substance abuse treatment, mentoring, violence prevention program participation, theft prevention program participation, in-home therapy, and the like. Due to budget constraints during the year, only 1 youth was referred to and received outpatient services from a provider in 2005.

## HAMILTON CHOICES

This managed care concept wrap around program has been in existence since 1995 under several different vendors over the years. The overall mission and purpose, as well as service operations are as follows: to purchase, evaluate, and monitor a wide variety of services directed to the County's most difficult to serve multi-system children and their families. Over the year there were approximately 50 Court youth being serviced by Choices. From the program's inception, a total of 334 Court juveniles have been (or are being) served. Thirty-eight new youth were referred into the program in calendar year 2005. Youth receive a wide array of services ranging from community-based to residential, and remain in the program for up to 18 months based on their issues and needs.

## THE BRIDGE

After many years of discussions between the Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Systems on service programming for youth who cross both systems, a demonstration project was funded for three sites in Ohio. In Southwest Ohio four counties, including Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren, collaborated and were awarded funding that led to the Program now known as "The Bridge". Talbert House, the lead provider organization, opened the residential site in October 2000. This secure facility combines a strong behavioral management milieu, cognitive-behavioral groups and interventions with sophisticated child and adolescent psychiatric expertise to address the needs of this population, characterized by severe mental health issues as well as a history of aggressive behavior. In 2005, the Probation Department contracted for 6 beds on a daily basis and had 17 youth placed in the program over the course of the year. Since its inception, 59 court youth have been served by the program. The Bridge has not received referrals from other counties in several years, but does receive referrals from other agencies at this time.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK DETAIL

The Work Detail program is a dispositional option for adjudicated youth in Hamilton County Juvenile Court. The program provides youth with a productive, short-term work experience as a consequence for delinquent behavior. Youth are given an opportunity to learn the principles of accountability and responsibility through various clean up and beautification projects in communities that have been affected by their delinquent behavior.

During 2005 the Work Detail department continued its partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools in the school attendance program. A Work Detail crew leader was placed in a participating school to assist in the attendance program and to supervise youth that were court ordered to perform work details in the school where they attend. The department also continued its partnership with Hamilton County Environmental Services to provide assistance with environmental and educational programs.

Daily Work Details	1,799
Saturday Work Details	1,610
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,409</b>

## RESTITUTION, PURGE PAYMENTS, FINES AND COURT COSTS

### RESTITUTION

In 2005, the total restitution collected was \$55,338.31

### FINES & COSTS COLLECTED

Fines	\$53,428.28
Court Costs	\$174,325.17
RRF & GRF	\$118,705.18
Computer Fees	\$55,649.55
Legal Research	\$16,559.09
Witness Fees	\$10,440.89
Delivery Fees	\$12,684.02
Work Detail Fees	\$1,129.00
Restitution Process Fee	\$1,341.43

## DISMISSALS

In 2005, 9,446 delinquent, unruly, traffic and adult misdemeanor cases were dismissed.

## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The number of youth committed to the Department of Youth Services increased from 125 in 2004, to 159 in 2005. In 2005, the Court revoked parole for 50 juveniles, down from 54 juveniles in 2004.

## TRANSFERS

In 2005, 76 juveniles were transferred to the Court of Common Pleas, General Division to have their cases tried as adults. In addition, one juvenile was found to be a Serious Youthful Offender.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

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### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department, under the Administrative Services Division is responsible for the preparation, expense and monitoring activity of the Annual County Operating budget and various state grants. Another major responsibility is the maintenance of employee sick and vacation records and production of the bi-weekly payroll. In addition, court ordered restitution is disbursed to the victim and child support for youth in placement is monitored.

2005 General Fund	Revenue	Expense
<b>General Fund Subsidy</b>	\$13,965,317.53	
<b>Judges' Office</b>	\$4,792,341.98	\$11,591,419.25
<b>Youth Center</b>	\$1,490,165.94	\$11,177,492.92
<b>Hillcrest</b>	\$12,601,387.99	\$10,080,301.27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,849,213.44</b>	<b>\$32,849,213.44</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
<b>Reclaim Ohio</b>	\$3,928,457.44	\$3,928,457.44
<b>Youth Services Grant</b>	\$1,302,536.89	\$1,302,536.89
<b>Family Treat Ct.</b>	\$254,213.21	\$254,213.21
<b>JAIBG</b>	\$101,382.94	\$101,382.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,586,590.48</b>	<b>\$5,586,590.48</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,435,803.92</b>	<b>\$38,435,803.92</b>

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Court's most important resource is its staff and their dedicated service to the Court's mission, to children and families, and to the public. The Court supports the development of a competent and professional staff through the Human Resource and Training Departments.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department provides a broad range of services to the Court's 568 employees, covering 214 positions at 800 Broadway, 182 at the Youth Center, and 172 at Hillcrest. The department recruits, screens, and oversees the hiring process to assure a highly qualified workforce. It maintains personnel records, documents the performance review process, and assists with employee relations as needed. The department also manages benefits administration, assures compliance with applicable labor laws, and administers the service pin recognition program.

The staff of the department are accessible to all employees in a continuing effort to promote a workplace that supports employee development and creativity, and in which all people are

treated with fairness, dignity and respect. The department advances policies, procedures, and practices that reflect the highest standards for competent, professional, and ethical public service.

### **TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

The Training Department provides introductory orientation, continuing education, and other learning opportunities to Court employees. The training staff collaborates with internal departments to identify needs, develop curricula, and deliver relevant educational programs. It also coordinates scheduling, maintains training records and equipment, and supports ongoing relationships with outside training agencies. Different types of learning opportunities covering a wide array of topics meet the diverse needs of Court staff.

To assure a high quality training experience, the training staff maintain competency in their field of expertise, and actively solicit comment and recommendation for continual improvement of the training experience. They also collaborate with various county and community agencies to efficiently maximize available training opportunities. In 2005, Court employees received over nearly 40,000 hours of training.

### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

The Information Services Department is comprised of twelve full-time employees and three contractors. Staff are responsible for the design, development, and implementation and support of the Court's computer hardware and software systems.

### **OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

The basic function of the Operations Department is to determine the equipment and supply requirements for the Juvenile Court, maintain an inventory of supplies commensurate with the requirements and place all necessary vendor orders. It is the department's responsibility to maintain control of Court equipment by proper record keeping, conducting an annual inventory and monitoring maintenance contracts. The Operations Department handles the majority of the purchasing for the Juvenile Court, therefore, the department is also responsible for authenticating all invoices for payment.

The Operations Department also maintains a Print Shop for the purpose of developing, duplicating and reproducing all the forms that the juvenile Court utilizes. The Operations Department is staffed with 2 full-time members. Along with the Operations Director, there is Supply Clerk/Printer.

## **SECURITY DEPARTMENT**

The Security Department is comprised of 13 full-time Law Enforcement Officers. These Officers have been certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission and have received specific and advanced training. The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Security Department is the first and only juvenile court certified by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

The Security Department operates in compliance with the Supreme Court of Ohio, Court Security Standards. The Security Department is responsible for providing security and prisoner transports within Juvenile Court at 800 Broadway. They further provide security and prisoner transports to the courtrooms at the Youth Center, prisoner transportation to and from other jurisdictions and is responsible for providing security at the Community Services Work Detail Program.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

### DOCKETING/CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Docketing and Case Management Department of the Juvenile Court is responsible for docketing and presenting all complaints filed, maintaining and updating all legal records, and maintaining audio cassettes for Magistrates' hearings. The department consists of 43 employees who handle cases involving Delinquency, Unruly, Custody, Visitation, Traffic, Adult Jurisdiction, Child Support, and Dependency. Jobs currently within the department include Docketing Clerks, Traffic Clerk, Warrant Clerk, Case Managers, Unofficial Hearing Officer, Receptionists, School Case Managers, and File Clerks.

#### COMPLAINTS AND SOME MOTIONS FILED

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
DELINQUENT & UNRULY	20,713	19,914	19,141	19,803	19,894
TRAFFIC	6,859	7,332	7,296	6,810	6,568
PATERNITY & SUPPORT	3,766	3,221	2,797	3,536	1,961
CONTEMPT MOTIONS	4,766	4,586	5,389	6,403	4,568
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	1,092	1,318	1,160	1,062	794
MOD. OF SUPPORT - CSEA				260	1,244
ADMIN. PATERNITY HEARINGS				237	1,736
ADMIN. MODIFICATION ORDER	536	601	490	477	1,239
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT	2,197	3,152	2,989	4,333	4,222
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	585	461	601	618	598
CUSTODY, VISITATION & HABEAS CORPUS	1,220	1,422	1,383	1,239	1,417
MISCELLANEOUS	0	2	2	2	1
ADULT MISDEMEANOR .	2,257	1,815	2,060	1,730	1,602
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43,991</b>	<b>43,822</b>	<b>43,308</b>	<b>46,510</b>	<b>45,844</b>
HEARINGS CONDUCTED	132,866	140,959	140,543	151,447	164,283
HEARINGS PER CASE	3.00	3.22	3.25	3.26	3.58
HEARINGS PER DAY	531	564	562	606	657
DELINQUENT FILINGS	19,197	18,408	17,630	18,166	18,120
FELONY FILINGS	3,218	3,036	3,037	2,881	2,939
JUVENILES PC TO DYS	166	167	130	125	159
JUVENILES BOGJ	65	61	48	39	76
JUVENILES SYO	N/A	4	2	5	1

### CLERK'S OFFICE

In Hamilton County Juvenile Court, Judge Thomas R. Lipps and Judge Karla J. Grady are Ex Officio Clerks of the Court. All cases filed are processed through either the Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway, or at the Youth Center Intake Department. The Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway consists of the Chief Deputy Clerk and 14 employees who screen, process and image new complaints and motions; send service to notify parties of court dates; prepare mandated, and internal statistical reports; establish restitution accounts; and process financial transactions for restitution, fines, court costs, purges, bond, and other ordered fees.

## **MAGISTRATES**

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There are twenty-six Magistrates in Juvenile Court. The Magistrates are appointed by the Juvenile Judges to preside over the daily case management in Juvenile Court. The powers of a Magistrate are similar to those of a Judge, however, their decisions are subject to review and approval by the assigned Juvenile Court Judge. In Hamilton County, Magistrates determine delinquency, unruly, dependency, custody, paternity and child support matters in Juvenile Court.

Eight Magistrates are assigned to preside over cases involving allegations of dependency, neglect and abuse of children. They are responsible for deciding the temporary and permanent placement of children. The primary goal of the dependency process is to protect the best interest of the child.

The remaining Magistrates preside over delinquency, unruly, traffic, custody, paternity and child support. In delinquency, unruly and traffic matters, Magistrates preside at the plea and trial hearings and determine appropriate dispositions.

Juvenile Court has jurisdiction of paternity, custody and child support when a child is born out of wedlock, or when married parents have not filed for divorce. The Magistrates oversee proceedings to establish the proper parent/child relationship. In addition to establishing paternity, the Magistrates also set child support orders. A Magistrate has the authority to hold a parent in contempt of court and place them before the assigned Judge for imposition of a jail term for failure to pay child support. The Magistrate also decides custody and visitation matters in Juvenile Court. Custody and visitation decisions determine who shall be the residential parent, or custodian of a child and provides for the visitation schedule of a child.

# HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT YOUTH CENTER



## YOUTH CENTER

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The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center provides short term secure placement for youth awaiting trial or placement. The Youth Center is accredited by the American Correctional Association.

In 2005, 6,038 youth were admitted to detention, while 4,804 youth were diverted from detention after arrest.

### MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The Medical Department provides medical, dental, drug/alcohol assessments, psychological and psychiatric services to all admitted youth. These services are delivered by staff physicians provided by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. The Youth Center is accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

Medical Screenings performed		5,663
Full Physical Examinations	1,397	
Sick Call Examinations performed (nurse practitioner or physician)		512

### PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The purpose of the Psychology Clinic is to provide mental health evaluations for the Juvenile Court System at the request of judges, magistrates, probation officers, and both prosecuting and defense attorneys. The evaluations are to determine whether juvenile offenders are competent to stand trial, appropriate for waiver, and to assist in dispositional planning. Occasionally, referrals from the dependency docket request clinic staff to assist in custody matters. The Court requested services in 2005 were:

CLINIC SERVICES	TOTAL
Psychological Evaluations	332
Mental Health Court Assessments	15
Psychiatric Evaluations	15
Evaluations for Waiver	72
Competency to Stand Trial	296
Emergency Hospitalizations	1
Job Applicants	87
Emergency Referrals	3,142
Detention High Risk Assessments	1,793

**HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
HILLCREST TRAINING SCHOOL**



# HILLCREST TRAINING SCHOOL

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During 2005, Hillcrest operated 118 residential treatment beds and 12 assessment beds for adjudicated boys placed by the Hamilton County Juvenile Court. In addition there are 12 assessment beds for adjudicated girls. Aftercare services were also provided for all youth successfully completing the residential portion of the program. The facility is located at 246 Bonham Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215. The program primarily serves youth that have committed felony offenses. The age of youth in residence ranges between twelve and eighteen. Hillcrest has dual accreditation by the American Correctional Association by meeting both the "Training School" Standards and "Aftercare Services" Standards. The facility is handicapped accessible and meets all ADA standards. In addition, Hillcrest maintains National Commission on Correctional Health Care Services Accreditation. Hillcrest is also certified by the American Association of Suicidology.

During 2005, the Hillcrest administration accomplished the following: reduced the operating budget by 2.4% or \$42,443, implemented a staff recognition program, completed the student discipline manuscript, restructured the American Correctional Association standards compliance process by assigning standards to appropriate department heads for compliance maintenance and created electronic copies of all employee-related forms.

Educational services continued to make innovative programmatic changes including the development and implementation of an intervention team to assess each student's educational needs and the development of a corresponding individualized treatment plan. A web-based computer assisted learning system (E-learning) was installed. A strategy was implemented to increase the number of licensed faculty members.

Facilities management completed the specification development of the renovation of the campus fire alert system, began the renovation of the residential unit kitchens, bathrooms and laundry areas, installed new HVAC in the Recreation Center, painted the exterior redwood siding on 90% of the residential units and installed Kronos time keeping units.

Programs and Services designed and implemented a campus-wide behavior modification program, an OJJDP consultant evaluated Aftercare services and the Outcomes Evaluation plan was fully implemented.

Residential Services reduced the number of AWOL's by 50%, increased supervisory support on the weekends, and increased managerial responsibilities to a 24-hour schedule.

RESIDENTIAL CARE	
Referrals	240
Admissions	209
Terminations	234
Number of Youth Served	344
Average Length of Stay (Days)	239
Days of Care Provided	38,350



**HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
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